

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CASABL 00282 281550Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
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FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5315
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMCONSUL TANGIER

C O N F I D E N T I A L CASABLANCA 0282

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, MO
SUBJ: LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE MOROCCAN TRADE UNION (UMT)

1. LOCAL POLICE OFFICIAL WHO COVERS LABOR DEVELOPMENTS
CASABLANCA REGION, TOLD POLITICAL-LABOR OFFICER THAT UMT
SECRETARY GENERAL MAJOUR BEN SEDDIK AND CAFKVTCZO# ABDERRAZAK

MANEUVERING
FOR CONTROL OF UMT. EACH IS TRYING TO SECURE VICTOR
OF HIS FOLLOWERS IN ELECTIONS OF HEADS OF THE 27 INDUSTRIAL
FEDERATIONS WHICH COMPRISE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PRIOR
TO THE CALLING OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS RUMORED FOR APRIL
OR MAY.

2. THE TWO LEADERS TOOK OPPOSING VIEWS OF THE LOCAL AND
NATIONAL ELECTIONS LAST YEAR. WHILE BEN SEDDIK SUPPORTED
THE UNFP POLITICAL PARTY DENUNCIATION OF THE LOCAL AND
NATIONAL ELECTIONS ABDERRAZAK ASSISTED IN THE
ELECTION CAMPAIGN OF VARIOUS UMT CANDIDATES AND
BECAME HIMSELF A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ALONG WITH
SIX OTHER UMT WORKER DELEGATES. ACCORDING TO THIS
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PAGE 02 CASABL 00282 281550Z

POLICE OFFICIAL, BEN SEDDIK HAS SEEN HIS INFLUENCE
ERODED BY ABDERRAZAK AS THE LATTER HAS PROFITED FROM HIS
PARLIAMENTARY CONNECTION TO DEVELOP A LARGER FOLLOWING
AND GREATER INFLUENCE OVER THE UMT. THE POLICE OFFICIAL
DOUBTED THAT ABDERRAZAK WOULD FORCE A SHOWDOWN BUT WOULD
CONSOLIDATE HIS EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE UNION AWAITING
THE TIME WHEN BEN SEDDIK WOULD SEE THE FUTILITY OF HANGING

ON IN A POWERLESS POSITION.

3. POLICE OFFICIAL ALLEGES THAT BEN SEDDIK HAS EMBEZZLED 35 MILLION DIRHAMS (US \$833,000.00) AND THEREFORE HE IS ANXIOUS TO REPLACE ASSISTANT TREASURER GENERAL ASSOU YADINI SINCE LATTER, A SUPPORTER OF ABDERRAZAK, IS INSISTING ON ACCOUNTING OF THESE FUNDS. POLICE OFFICIAL BELIEVES THAT BEN SEDDIK IS PREPARING FOR HIS RETIREMENT FROM UNION AFFAIRS SHOULD HE LOSE CONTROL OF UNION TO ABDERRAZAK.

4. COMMENT: THE UMT NATIONAL CONGRESS IS TWO YEARS OVERDUE AND IT SEEMS PLAUSIBLE THAT SOME JOCKEYING FOR INFLUENCE IS TAKING PLACE IN THE COURSE OF THE FEDERATION ELECTIONS. DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS BEN SEDDIK APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN LITTLE INITIATIVE EITHER IN DOMESTIC UNION AFFAIRS OR IN INTERNATIONAL LABOR ACTIVITIES WHICH LENDS CREDENCE TO THE SPECULATION THAT HE MAY RESIGN OR ACCEPT AN HONORIFIC POST AS A FACE-SAVING DEVICE. MONJO

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

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